

Seshadri 1999-0357

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 19, with the following:

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FIG. 1 shows a cellular telephony arrangement with a cell phone 10 communicating with base station 20 that includes conventional control circuitry for managing the bandwidth available to base station 20, and for managing the calls from various cellular phones, including phone 10. Consider, for example, a FIG. 1 system where a cell phone communicates with a base station over a specified 200 KHz channel that comprises frames, with eight slots per block and a given number of blocks per frame (e.g., 8). To maintain synchronization among cell phones, the base station sends a frame control signal to which all cell phones synchronize. The voice signal of phone 10 is illustratively encoded by a 13 Kbps coder that adds 9 kbps of error protection and thus develops a 22 kbps signal. Under normal conditions, when the user of phone 10 is speaking, phone 10 is allocated one out of the eight slots of each block. For example, FIG. 2 shows a frame with 5 blocks frames, where slot 2 is allocated to phone 10.